GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4076
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2007
JOINING THE NATIONAL CARRIER BY IAF OFFICERS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pilots of Armed Forces took pre-mature retirements/resigned during each of the last three years and current year so far;

(b) the average expenditure incurred by the Government to train Pilots;

(c) the grounds that are considered as 'extreme compassionate grounds' for premature retirement of Pilots;

(d) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) has agreed to allow its officers to join the National Carrier as reported in the Business Standard, dated April 10, 2007;

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for the proposed move;

(f) whether the proposed move is likely to lead to shortage of Air Force Pilots and also loss that the Air Force would incur on Pilots training; and

(g) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (g): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4076 FOR ANSWER ON 3.5.2007

The details regarding the number of pilots released on premature retirement/resigned during each of the last three years and in the current year so far is as under:-

Year	Proceeded on premature retirement	Resignation
2004	128	-
2005	77	-
2006	56	-
2007 (as of April)	16	-

The average training costs vary from service to service and stream to stream ranging from Rs.0.302 crores to Rs.10.35 crores.

Certain domestic problems relating to inheritance of property, need to look after ailing parents, family business, serious illness of wife requiring officer's presence at home, possibility of break up of conjugal life if the officer continues in service, etc. are considered as compassionate grounds, depending upon the circumstances of each case.

The Indian Air Force has agreed to allow officers in the age group of 54 years and above to join the national carrier. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between IAF and Air India on 5th April, 2007. This is to facilitate a second carrier option to the retiring IAF officers and also reduce the requirement of expatriate pilots for the national carrier.

The exit of the officers being sponsored would not affect the operational status of the Air Force as these officers would have already served their useful tenure as pilots. The officers being sponsored are generally those who are superannuating within a year or so. Hence, this would neither lead to shortage of pilots in the IAF nor any loss incurred on their training.